

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

The Office Action mailed June 30, 2006 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1, 3-10, and 17 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 3-10, and 17 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and for the following reasons.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent 0990565 (“EP ‘565”). Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,323,444 (“Aoki ‘444”) in view of U.S. Patent 4,815,984 (“Sugiyama”). Claims 1, 3, 7-10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,571,647 (“Aoki ‘647”) in view of Sugiyama. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP ‘565, as applied to claims 1, 3 and 17 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 3,949,822 (“English”) or U.S. Patent 6,669,505 (“Wisniewski”). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki ‘444 in view of Sugiyama, as applied to claims 1, 3, 7, 8, and 17 above, and further in view of English or Wisniewski. The rejections should be withdrawn because EP ‘565, Aoki ‘444, Aoki ‘647 do not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element if claims 1, 3-10 and 17.

Specifically, EP ‘565, Aoki ‘444, Aoki ‘647 do not disclose, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 17. For example, none of the cited references disclose a seat load measuring apparatus comprising a load sensor including “a connector receiving portion having a fastener” as claimed in claims 1 and 17. In addition, none of the cited references disclose “a connector casing, fastened to the connector receiving portion with the fastener” as claimed in claims 1 and 17. Moreover, none of the cited references disclose “a connector attached to the connector casing, adapted to removably receive an end of a cable, and having one or more terminals fitted into the connector casing,

wherein the one or more terminals are electrically connected to the one or more conductors formed on the sensor plate” as claimed in claims 1 and 17.

EP ‘565 discloses a device for detecting seat occupancy and an air bag device for a motor vehicle. As shown in figure 3, EP ‘565 simply discloses a plurality of weight sensors 21. Each weight sensor is attached to a cable 22 which feeds into a signal converter 23. The signal converter 23 is connected to a connector 25 through a cable. However, EP 565 does not disclose the sensor 21 having a connector receiving portion with a fastener and a connector casing fastened to the receiving portion. Further, EP ‘565 does not disclose teach or suggest a connector attached to the connector casing, adapted to removably receive an end of a cable, and having one or more terminals fitted into the connector casing, wherein the one or more terminals are electrically connected to the one or more conductors formed on the sensor plate as called for in amended claims 1 and 17.

Aoki ‘444 and Aoki ‘647 are both directed to seat weight measuring apparatuses. However, both references fail to disclose any information regarding connecting these apparatuses to other systems or devices. At best, both references disclose that the seat weight measuring apparatuses possess terminals. However, Aoki ‘444 and Aoki ‘647 do not disclose a load sensor having a connector receiving portion with a fastener and a connector casing fastened to the receiving portion. Further, Aoki ‘444 and Aoki ‘647 do not disclose, teach or suggest a connector attached to the connector casing, adapted to removably receive an end of a cable, and having one or more terminals fitted into the connector casing, wherein the one or more terminals are electrically connected to the one or more conductors formed on the sensor plate as called for in amended claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Each of claims 3-10 that depend from claim 1 are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims.

Further, Sugiyama, English and Wisniewski fail to cure the deficiencies of EP 565, Aoki ‘444 and Aoki ‘647 and thus do not preclude the patentability of claims 1, 3-10 and 17.

Moreover, the prior art must provide a motivation or a reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references. In contrast, in relying on Sugiyama, the Examiner has merely concluded that the proposed combination would be obvious without providing any detail as to what aspect of Sugiyama could be combined with Aoki '444 or Aoki '647 and, perhaps more importantly, the Examiner has failed to identify any disclosure or teaching in the prior art that would suggest the desirability of such a combination.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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